

**REMARKS**

Claims 15-20 and 22 were pending in this application prior to the final Office Action. Claims 1-22 have been canceled and new claims 23-31 have been added. Thus, claims 23-31 are now pending in this application. In view of the cancellation of claims 15-20 and 22 herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 15-20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), which was discussed in the Interview of August 24, 2006, is now moot, and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application, and submit that the application should be immediately passed to issue. If a further conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange such a conference.

**Except** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2380. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffrey L. Costellia, Reg. No. # 35,483/  
Jeffrey L. Costellia

JLC/SMH

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Suite 900, 401 9<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2128  
(202) 585-8000